



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION
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January 29, 2025

Honorable Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State St., Rm. 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham,

The Albany County Department of Mental Health (ACDMH) requests permission to amend our 2025 budget to reallocate New York State Office of Mental Health Jail Diversion continuation award funds for optimal use before the grant period concludes. The reallocation will support high-priority initiatives, including hiring one Peer Advocate and one Mental Health Assistant to reduce recidivism and address criminogenic needs through relationship building and improved connections to community services post-release. It will also fund resources to address social determinants of health, staff training, travel assistance, bus passes for clients, and client support materials tailored to individual needs.

Feel free to contact Michael Fitzgerald or me if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

Stephen Giordano, Ph.D.
Director

C.C. Hon. Dennis Feeney, Majority Leader
Hon. Frank Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
Arnis Zilgme, Minority Counsel